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December 15, 2014

**TO:** Each Supervisor

**FROM:** Sheryl L. Spiller, Director

**SUBJECT: MOTION BY SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXPRESS LANE ENROLLMENT PROJECT (ITEM NO. 2, JUNE 4, 2014)**

This is to provide you with our monthly status report on the Department of Public Social Services' (DPSS) progress in implementing the Express Lane Project to provide Medi-Cal coverage to CalFresh participants. Below is a summary of our outreach efforts and data on the number of enrollments.

On June 4, 2014, on a motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, the Board instructed the Director of DPSS to fully implement the Express Lane streamlined eligibility process described in the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) All County Welfare Directors Letter and the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services Guidance. DPSS was instructed to report back to the Board in writing within 60 days and monthly thereafter.

**OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

As of November 30, 2014, according to DHCS, 34,976 CalFresh participants were enrolled in Express Lane Medi-Cal (ELMC) in Los Angeles County. Please note that the number of CalFresh participants enrolled in ELMC changes each month; individuals exit when they are approved for Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Medi-Cal or when their CalFresh case is closed. Therefore, some CalFresh participants identified in our previous status report may no longer be enrolled in ELMC, but may continue to have Medi-Cal coverage.

DPSS continues to implement the outreach strategies as previously described in our October 3, 2014, memo: 1) offer eligible participants the opportunity to opt-in during every point of contact, particularly during their CalFresh recertification interviews; and 2) conduct telephone outreach to individuals who are potentially eligible encouraging

them to opt-in during that phone call. For the period October 20, 2014 through November 30, 2014, we outreached to 11,065 CalFresh participants to encourage enrollment into ELMC. Of the 11,065 participants contacted, 1,430 participants opted-in and were enrolled in ELMC and 9,635 declined ELMC enrollment. Of the participants who declined, about half indicated that they already had health insurance.

Additionally, by November 20, 2014, DHCS completed a second ELMC mailing to more than 356,000 CalFresh participants statewide informing them of the option to enroll into Medi-Cal via Express Lane. This includes more than 115,000 Los Angeles County CalFresh participants. This second round of mailers was sent to newly-approved CalFresh participants and to CalFresh participants who previously received, but did not respond to, the original mailer from DHCS in February/March 2014.

### **COMPUTER PROGRAMMING**

As planned, the LEADER programming changes needed to track and monitor the 12-month eligibility period for Express Lane recipients were implemented on October 24, 2014. LEADER will automatically create a separate Medi-Cal case for individuals requesting ELMC via DPSS and DHCS outreach efforts, eliminating the need for adding the case manually. Additionally, these changes will facilitate data tracking of ELMC cases initiated by DPSS and DHCS.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (562) 908-8383, or your staff may contact Jose R. Perez, Chief In-Charge, at (562) 908-8633, or via email at [joseperez@dpss.lacounty.gov](mailto:joseperez@dpss.lacounty.gov).

SLS:ca

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